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NSC BRIEFING

1 December 1954

GERMAN ELECTIONS

1. Bavaria and Hesse state elections (28 November) showed these developments:

A. Campaigns plugged mostly local problems: Foreign policy issue entered campaign only toward end.

Voters uphold Adenauer on foreign policy, rearmament.

His rebellious partners (Free Democrats, Refugee Party) failed in attack his Saar policy.

Social Democrats - major opponents ~~rearmament~~ - didn't improve position.

B. Communist vote rose slightly, but not enough to win seats.

C. Christian Democrats did not make national election record, but gained over '50 state elections.

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25 YEAR  
RE-REVIEW

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- D. Bundesrat (Upper House) will be no worse for Adenauer, possibly better.
- I. In Bavaria - Christian Democrats have established clear dominance. Probable that Christian Democrat-Social Democrat coalition in until '58.
  - A. Of other coalition parties, Refugee Party showed slight gains, Free Democratic Party (which anti-Saar agreement) failed to gain.
  - B. Social Democrats barely held own.
- f. In Hesse - Christian Democrats improved position.
  - A. Attacks on foreign policy, rearmament mainly by Socialists, who lost previous majority in Landtag.
  - B. Christian Democrat improvement offers possibility of overthrowing Socialist government.

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1. Could be done by coalition with Free Democrats, Refugee Party.
2. More likely, however, that Socialists will team with Refugee Party to hold control.
3. Refugee Party cooperated with Socialists in campaign, has supported it in the Landtag. Could be pressured by national organization, however, into supporting Christian Democratic-Free Democratic coalition.

IV. 5 December elections in West Berlin are expected bring stable coalition of Christian Democrats and Social Democrats.

- A. Death of Reuter (Sep '53) ended the Christian Democrat-Socialist-Free Democrat coalition.

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1. Christian Democratic Mayor Schreiber's Christian Democrat-Free Democrat coalition took office in Dec '53: Socialists went into opposition.

B. Socialists are expected to maintain position as largest West Berlin party but will probably not regain majority (lost in 1950).

1. Socialists have traditionally well-disciplined organization; backed by organized labor, which now less pro-Adenauer.
2. Reportedly doing quiet door-to-door electioneering.
3. Bread-and-butter issues now more important than during blockade emergency.
4. Socialist leader Suhr hopes to be mayor in Christian Democratic-Socialist coalition.

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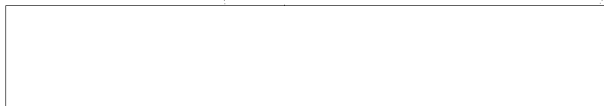
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C. Christian Democrats should increase strength considerably over 1950.

1. Mayor Schreiber's administration popular.
2. Irresponsible behavior of Democrats should enable Christian Democrats to pick up votes.

D. Free Democrats are expected to lose much right-wing support to German Party (which has chance to get five percent of total vote needed to win seats in Berlin House).

1. German Party in West Berlin has history of right-wing radicalism,



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2. Recently more nationalistic, neo-Nazi in behavior.
  3. If German Party wins representation, will be target for Soviet and East German propaganda attacks.
- E. The Socialist Unity Party, under the direction of the East German Communists, also has chance to win representation.
- F. Actually little difference between positions on foreign and domestic policy held by moderate elements of Christian Democratic Party and Socialists. Leaders of both are reportedly looking forward to establishment of coalition for next four years.

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